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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Office Action dated January 14, 2004, Applicants are submitting herewith the following remarks in support of the patentability of Claims 1-51.

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1, 11, 18, 28, 38 and 39 being independent.

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 11-15, 28-32, 35, 36, 38-42, 45, 46 and 48-51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Deker '987. Additionally, Claims 6, 7,